**Deforestation due to illegal cutting of Trees**

34. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trees are being illegally cut in the country denuding the forests and disturbing the ecological atmosphere;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made of this illegal activity during each of the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, particularly in Delhi; and

(d) the action taken against the persons responsible for such illegal activity in the country and in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) There are instances of sporadic illegal tree cutting in the country but such information is not compiled in the Ministry. However, the assessment of forest/ tree cover in the Country is done by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). As per their latest assessment of 1995, the forest/tree cover of the country has been estimated as 639600 sq. km. whereas it was 640107 sq. km. in 1993 assessment. There has been a decrease of 507 sq. km. forest cover during the period from 1993 to 1995, mostly due to decrease in north-eastern region. In Delhi, there is a increase of forest/tree cover by 4 sq. km. during the period from 1993 to 1995.

(d) In individual cases of illegal tree cutting, action is taken by the State Government as per provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and State Forest Act.

**NRWS ITRN captioned saviours of Tiger Fight for Funds**

35. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in "The Asian Age" of December 18, 1996, captioned "Saviours of Tiger fight for funds"; and

(b) if so, the precise nature of concern expressed or conveyed to Government by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) about the fast depleting population of Indian Tigers and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Concern has been expressed over the threat faced by the Indian tiger. Government is already taking all possible measures to save the tiger. World Wildlife Fund-India (WWF-India) have been associated as member of Indian Board of Wildlife, Steering Committee of Project Tiger and Tiger Crises Cell.

**नवाबगंज पक्षी अभयारण्य के "पॉपुलरिटी ग्राफ" में गिरावट**

36. श्री ईश दत्त यादव: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नवाबगंज पक्षी अभयारण्य के "पॉपुलरिटी ग्राफ" में तेजी से गिरावट आई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और इस संबंध में कब से गिरावट आई है;

(ग) क्या उक्त पक्षी अभयारण्य के "पॉपुलरिटी ग्राफ" में उन्नयन करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा कोई सकारात्मक कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन जय नारायण प्रसाद निषाद): (क) और (ख) उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य वन्यजीव वार्डन के अनुसार यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के नवाबगंज पक्षी अभयारण्य में पक्षियों की आबादी में कुछ कमी आई है। यह कमी मानसून-अवधि के दौरान कम वर्षा के कारण आई जिसके फलस्वरूप झील में जल स्तर में कमी आई।

(ग) और (घ) वन विभाग ने मामले को राज्य सिंचाई विभाग के साथ उठाया है जिन्होंने जल को सिंचाई नहर से झील में परिवर्तित करना शुरू कर दिया है जिसके फलस्वरूप अब पर्याप्त जल उपलब्ध होना शुरू हो गया है।